

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07659 131307Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-02 ACDA-12 OPR-02 A-01
SY-05 SCS-06 CA-01 PPT-01 PER-01 OC-06 CCO-00
COME-00 AGR-01 PC-01 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 USSS-00 HA-05 /104 W
-----084598 131314Z /40

O 131151Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9786
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCUUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7659

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PORS , IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN POLITICAL SITUATION-OVERT VIOLENCE GIVES
WAY TO QUIET RUMBLING

REF: A. TEHRAN 7617, B. TEHRAN 7618

SUMMARY: AFTER SOMEWHAT TUMULTOUS WEEKEND, SITUATION LESS
TENSE IN IRAN AS A RESULT OF MARITAL LAW. STORIES OF ADDITIONAL
RIOTS IN SHIRAZ APPEAR INCORRECT. RANDOM VIOLENCE STRUCK
OTHER CITIES OVER WEEKEND, HOWEVER, END SUMMARY.

1. CONSULATE ISFAHAN REPORTS THAT CITY IS QUIET IN WAKE OF
GOVERNMENT'S DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW AUG 11 (REF A). ONLY
TWO INCIDENTS OF BURNING REPORTED, BOTH UNCONFIRMED. CURFEW
IS HOLDING BUT GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE WARNING
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PEOPLE NOT TO BE OUT AFTER 8 P.M. PLEADING IGNORANCE OF THE
CURFEW. WHILE SITUATION STILL TENSE, CALM PREVAILS.

2. CONSULATE SHIRAZ REPORTS INITIAL RUMORS THAT 10 HAD
BEEN KILLED AND HUNDREDS INJURED ON AUG 11 OR 12 APPEAR
IN ERROR. IN MORNING PRESS AUG 13, FARS PROVINCE GOVERNOR
AZMOUN ALSO SAID REPORTS WERE WRONG. ONLY MAJOR OUTBREAK

IN PAST FEW DAYS IN SHIRAZ WAS THAT ON AUG 11 (REFTELS).
CONSULATE HAS HELD MEETING WITH PRINCIPAL AMERICAN BUSINESS-
MEN AND SITUATION IS RELAXED BUT WATCHFUL.

3. LOW LEVEL VIOLENCE AFLICTED TEHRAN OVER WEEKEND.
TEHRAN PARS AMERICAN CLUB SUFFERED BROKEN WINDONWS AUG 11.
IN SOUTH TEHRAN, SEVERAL BANKS AND MOVIES HAD WINDONWS
BROKEN AND OTHER DAMAGE DONE. PRESS AUG 13 REPORTS EIGHT
BANKS AND THE RESURGENCE PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN KHORAMABAD
WERE BURNED AUG 11-12.

4. IN TABRIZ, CITY REMAINED GENERALLY QUIET. ONLY
STUDENTS AT AZARBADEGAN UNIVERSITY RAISED PROTEST AUG 12
OVER RIOTERS IN IRAN. CONCURRENTLY, AN INDUSTRIAL STRIKE
CONTINUES OVER ANNUAL BONASES BUT THIS HAS TAKEN ON AIR
OF PICNIC RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION.

5. IN QAZVIN PRESS REPORTS POLICE WERE FORCED TO FIRE
IN AIR AND USE TEAR GAS TO BREAK UP DEMONSTRATION.

6. GOI SOURCES EXPECT FURTHER ATTEMPTS AT DEMONSTRATIONS
IN QOM, MASHAD AND TABRIZ.

7. GOVERNMENT REMAINS FIRM AGAINST VIOLENCE AND FOR
POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION. TEHRAN JOURNAL AUG 12 ECHOES
GOVERNMENT STATEMENT THAT BALLOT BOX AND NOT VIOLENCE
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WILL CHART IRAN'S FUTURE COURSE. INTRODUCTION OF
SECURITY FORCES TO IRAN IS WELCOMED AND GOVERNMENT'S
DETERMINATION TO CARRY ON LIBERALIZATION IS APPLAUDED.
KAYHAN EDITORIAL AUG 13 DEPLORES "BLOOD AND DESTRUCTION"
AND NOTES THAT IRAN IS SUFFERING FROM INDUSTRIALIZATION
AND URBAN PROBLEMS AND CALLS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO
IMPOSE MARTIAL LAW, A TEMPORARY SOLUTION TO A TEMPORARY
PROBLEM. KAYHAN APPLAUDS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO GO
AHEAD WITH POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION AND SUGGESTS DIVERTING
MORE RESOURCES TO THE REMOVAL OF FRUSTRATING URBAN
PROGRAMS.
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